

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

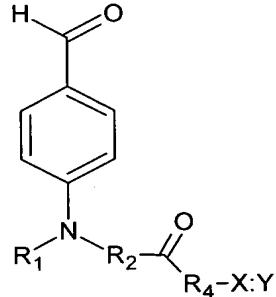
4. (new) A method for isolating pyrrole-containing biological compounds from a sample, the method comprising:

1) contacting the sample with a biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent which comprises a cleavable bond such that a reaction product is formed between the pyrrole-containing biological compound and the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent;

2) contacting the reaction product with avidin or streptavidin attached to a solid support, such that the reaction product is bound to the solid support through biotin-avidin/streptavidin binding; and

3) isolating the reaction product bound to the support by cleaving the cleavable bond of the Ehrlich's reagent.

5. (new) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the Ehrlich's reagent has a formula of



wherein R¹ is an alkyl group, R² is an alkylene group, R⁴ is a heteroalkylene group comprising a cleavable bond, X is biotin, and Y is avidin or strepavidin attached to a solid support.

6. (new) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising washing the reaction product bound to the solid support prior to the isolating step (3).

7. (new) The method according to Claim 5, wherein R¹ is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, and R² is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-10 carbon atoms.

8. (new) The method according to Claim 7, wherein R¹ is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.

9. (new) The method according to Claim 7, R² is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.

10. (new) The method according to Claim 9, wherein R¹ is a straight-chain alkyl group containing 1-5 carbon atoms, and R² is a straight-chain alkylene group containing 1-5 carbon atoms.

12. (new) The method according to Claim 4, wherein R⁴ comprises a disulphide bond.

13. (new) The method according to Claim 12, wherein R⁴ is -NH(CH₂)₂SS(CH₂)₂NHC(O)(CH₂)₅NH-.

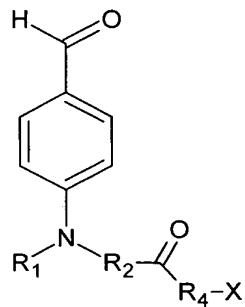
14. (new) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the disulphide bond is cleaved by a reducing agent.

15. (new) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the reducing agent is β -Mercaptoethanol and dithiothreitol.

16. (new) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the reducing agent is dithiothreitol.

17. (new) A method for isolating pyrrole-containing biological compounds from a sample, the method comprising:

1) contacting the sample with a biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent which comprises a cleavable bond such that a reaction product is formed between the pyrrole-containing biological compound and the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent; wherein the biotinylated Ehrlich's reagent has a formula of:



wherein R¹ is methyl, R² is ethylene, R⁴ is -NH(CH₂)₂SS(CH₂)₂NHC(O)(CH₂)₅NH- which comprises a disulphide bond, and X is biotin,

2) contacting the reaction product with avidin immobilized on a column, such that the reaction product is bound to the solid support through biotin-avidin binding; and

3) applying dithiothreitol to the column, thereby cleaving the disulphide and isolating the reaction product bound to the support.